

Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of Mr. LaVogue and his students, and I am pleased to name them true Hastings' Heroes.

HONORING TUOLUMNE BAND OF
ME-WUK INDIANS

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and honor the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians for the integral part they played in bringing the 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree to Washington, DC.

Since 1970, it has become an honor for one of the National Forests to be asked to provide the Capitol Tree. The appointed National Forest, in turn, engages help from diverse partners throughout its respective State. The opportunity to provide the Capitol Christmas Tree becomes a state-wide celebration and civic event, leaving a lasting impression on all who are fortunate enough to be involved.

2011 is only the fourth time California has contributed the U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree, the last time was in 1995. Known as "The People's Tree," the 2011 Capitol Christmas Tree was harvested from the Stanislaus National Forest located in the Central Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians performed a blessing of the tree prior to it being harvested. The members of the tribe cut and laid the tree down on a special cradle without breaking a branch in the frigid 17 degree weather.

In addition to assisting with the harvesting and blessing of the 2011 Capitol Christmas Tree, the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians also harvested and blessed their own tree. The 20-foot tall White Spruce was hand-picked by the Elders to be donated to the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian. It is the first time that a Native American tribe from California has donated a tree to the museum. It traveled 4,280 miles from California to Washington, DC making 23 stops along the way. At two of the stops, the Me-Wuk's had tribal gift exchanges with two other Indian tribes. The tree's arrival received international press and showed the rest of the world that our nation has the freedom to celebrate a religious holiday at the Capitol.

A notable moment for the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians was being able to perform a tribal dance in the Library of Congress. Their performance marks the first time that a Native American tribe has danced in the historic building. The dancers that participated were Robert Millis, Louis Millis, Robert Burciaga, Miguel Campos, Joey Guinn, Shanta Millis, Tricia Guinn, Heather Palmer, Darla Berg, Janell Lavell, Melissa Wiest, Lucy Parker, and Ursula Jones. Special Recognition should be extended to Reba Fuller, the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians Government Specialist, who worked tirelessly on the project and traveled with the tree until it was properly placed.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring and commending the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians for their historic journey with the 2011 U.S. Capitol Christmas Tree.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1540,
NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZA-
TION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for H.R. 1540, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012, because it contains a number of important advancements. I am extremely disappointed, however, that we were unable to achieve more in our effort to change U.S. policy on the treatment of detainees.

H.R. 1540 contains a number of areas of progress, including a pay increase for our troops, important new protections for military personnel who are victims of sexual assault, concrete requirements for the Department of Defense to strengthen its audit-readiness, and increased cooperation with Israel on ballistic missile defense. In addition, it contains the toughest sanctions yet on the Central Bank of Iran to pressure the Iranian regime from continuing its pursuit of nuclear weapons. And, it blunts the defense spending increases of past years with significant cuts that are consistent with the end of the war in Iraq and the winding down of our involvement in Afghanistan.

When the House first considered H.R. 1540 earlier this year, I voted against it because of its misguided language on detainees. The bill's provision for military detention of American citizens was simply antithetical to American values. I joined with nearly three dozen Members of Congress in urging that the language on detainees be removed from the final version of the legislation.

I commend President Obama for insisting on a number of improvements, including a prohibition on military detention of U.S. citizens and lawful residents, the removal of language that would have banned the use of civilian courts to prosecute Qaeda suspects, and the elimination of language that would have provided an expanded authorization for the use of military force.

For these reasons I will vote for H.R. 1540. I will closely monitor the law's implementation, however, and press for further changes that are needed to protect our civil liberties and the rule of law, which Americans have fought to preserve at such great cost.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOME-
LESS PERSONS' MEMORIAL DAY

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, which will be observed on December 21, 2011. This day has been observed annually since 1990 to remember those who have lost their lives due to the tragedy of homelessness, and to bring attention to the need to end homelessness. Last December, the House of Representatives passed H. Con. Res. 325, a resolution that I introduced that supports the goals and ideals

of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. I am proud to recognize this important day again this year, and express my deepest sympathies to those who have lost loved ones to this tragedy.

The current state of our economy has greatly exacerbated national homelessness. It is estimated that over half a million people experience homelessness on any given night in the United States. Of those in the homeless population, 12 percent are veterans, and 17 percent are considered chronically homeless. These numbers highlight the fact that we are witnessing a growing human rights crisis right here at home. This is a crisis that cannot be ignored.

Mr. Speaker, as Co-Founder and Co-Chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Homelessness, I understand that we must and can do more to end homelessness. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing National Homeless Persons' Memorial to prevent and end homelessness.

HONORING G. KENNETH CAR-
PENTER AND HAROLD FARRING-
TON, JR., ON THEIR INDUCTION
TO THE VETERANS HALL OF
FAME

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor, recognize, and congratulate G. Kenneth Carpenter and Harold Farrington, Jr., on their induction into the Veterans Hall of Fame.

In 1967, Kenneth volunteered to serve his country in Vietnam. After returning home, he found his calling and joined the clergy. During his 25 years as Senior Minister at Mystic's Union Baptist Church, Mr. Carpenter dedicated himself to his community. He helped found the Mystic Area Shelter & Hospitality, providing a safe haven to more than 800 people and preventing hundreds more from becoming homeless. He also led the group that created the Sunshine Kitchen in Groton, which served free meals to local people in need for 18 years. In addition, Mr. Carpenter co-founded the Southeastern Connecticut Clergy Association to encourage people of different faiths to work together and volunteered to counsel veterans suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Harold Farrington, Jr., served in the Army's combat infantry in Vietnam. In 1968, he returned home after a mortar round blew up in his left hand. Mr. Farrington spent five years undergoing painful bone and skin grafts and tendon transplants. Harold was so impressed with the care he received from the Veterans benefits counselor that he decided to go work for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Over the next 30 years, Mr. Farrington was dedicated to ensuring that veterans and their families were able to receive the disability compensation, benefits, and services to which they were entitled. Harold established Veteran's Services offices at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton, the Coast Guard Academy in New London and the Naval Station in Newport, RI, to help service-members transition to civilian life.

The exemplary contributions that G. Kenneth Carpenter and Harold Farrington, Jr.,

have made to their communities after leaving the military, have earned them a place in the Veterans Hall of Fame. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating these two men and applauding their dedication to serving Connecticut and the nation.

RECOGNIZING THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S CENTENNIAL NATIONAL DAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Republic of China's many successes and to express my congratulations on their Centennial.

In 1911 the Wuchang uprising gave birth to the Republic of China, becoming the first nation in the ethnic Chinese world where democracy would take root. After the revolution, Dr. Sun Yat-sen vowed to the people that they would build a strong and prosperous nation under a democratic government. Although that dream was not achieved before his death, his ideas continued to live on. Today, Taiwan celebrates freedom and democracy and enjoys a prosperous economy. As a loyal friend of the United States, we affirm our continued commitment to Taiwan's security and look forward to only strengthening our relationship.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I congratulate the Republic of China on its many accomplishments over the past 100 years and invite my colleagues to join me in celebration. My wife Vicki joins me in offering our best wishes to the people of Taiwan for their continued prosperity.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2055, CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2012

SPEECH OF

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2011

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2055, the Consolidated Appropriations Act for 2012. While this bill is not perfect, it makes critical investments in education, military construction and civilian infrastructure requirements on Guam, Wall Street reform, and clean energy, and it ensures that our government remains funded through the remainder of Fiscal Year 2012. I thank Chairman HAL ROGERS and Ranking Member NORM DICKS, and all my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee, for maintaining critical funding that supports our Armed Forces and ensures that Guam and the U.S. Territories receive necessary support from the Federal Government.

If passed, H.R. 2055 would appropriate \$33 million for civilian infrastructure improvements on Guam through the Department of Defense Office of Economic Adjustment in response to the realignment of U.S. Marine Corps forces to Guam. The bill would provide the necessary appropriation and sufficient authorization for the Secretary of Defense to utilize these funds

specifically to address the need for vehicles and supplies for civilian student transportation, the construction of a cultural repository for cultural artifacts unearthed during current and future military construction, and the construction of a mental health and substance abuse facility in Guam. The funding for this infrastructure was done through a validated process and in accordance with the Economic Adjustment Committee criteria. These infrastructure improvements are critical to ensuring that Guam is able to sustain the additional military presence anticipated from the build-up, and the funds fulfill an agreement made between the Administration and the Government of Guam.

I am, however, very concerned with cuts that were made to the Department of the Navy for military construction projects directly relating to the U.S.-Japan Roadmap for Realignment Implementation. The bill removes approximately \$155 million in military construction projects that support the Marine Corps requirements for the realignment of forces from Okinawa to Guam. The removal of these funds ignores the Administration's efforts to improve our military posture in Asia, and it further delays inevitable investments that will be necessary to support the realignment. Further, I am concerned that cutting funds for increment 2 of the North Ramp Utilities project wastes nearly \$20 million in previously appropriated funds. However, I do appreciate the support for the Guam Strike requirements at Andersen Air Force Base. Guam Strike is an important program that helps to provide necessary ISR and Strike capabilities at Andersen Air Force Base. I appreciate the Committee's continued support of this program.

This bill also includes much needed support for Guam, and the U.S. Territories. Specifically, it provides more than a million dollars for infrastructure on Guam to support sustainable energy projects. The people of Guam currently face some of the highest energy costs in the Nation, and funding will help alleviate those costs and reduce our dependence on imported oil. The bill also increases funding for the Assistance to Territories program by nearly \$5 million above the President's Budget request. However, I am concerned about the reduction in funds to the Empowering Insular Communities fund. This new account would strengthen the foundations of economic development in the territories by addressing challenges preventing reliable delivery of critical services needed to attract investment. I hope that the additional funds in the Assistance to Territories fund can be used to meet this new program's needs.

In addition, once passed, this bill will significantly improve the implementation of the Compacts of Free Association. The Compacts are an important national security arrangement for our Nation; however, the impacts of Compact migration have placed a significant financial strain on the Government of Guam and similarly affected jurisdictions, in the form of education and health care costs, and other social services.

This bill funds a new position within the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) dedicated to working on Compact impact issues. It will direct the Department to work with the Freely Associated States to develop a comprehensive plan to mitigate the costs of Compact migration. The plan seeks to better inform potential Compact migrants of the original intent of the migration provision of

the Compacts, which is to provide educational and employment opportunities to FAS citizens and to avoid reliance on social services. The plan also seeks to improve access to health care, specifically dialysis treatment in the FAS. Over time, OIA's improved coordination with the FAS will reduce the need for FAS migrants to seek medical treatment in Guam or other jurisdictions. Finally, the plan would improve screening procedures for potential migrants with communicable diseases, or a criminal history.

Earlier this year, I cosigned a letter to the Department of the Interior requesting it begin working with the FAS on these issues. I commend the Committee for including these provisions in this legislation. I expect these policies will significantly improve the implementation of the Compacts, and ease the financial burdens currently placed on the local governments in affected jurisdictions.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2055 sets critical spending priorities for the Federal Government and fulfills Congress' most fundamental duty to provide the resources necessary to keep our government running. Given the difficult budget environment, the bill makes difficult choices in a responsible manner. Moreover, the bill ultimately provides critical support for Guam and the U.S. territories, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

HONORING THE NANTUCKET HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 19, 2011

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Nantucket Whalers in my district who represented their communities in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association's (MIAA) annual Super Bowls. The teams from Bourne High School, Dennis-Yarmouth Regional High School, Duxbury High School, Mashpee High School, and Nantucket High School won five of the nine Super Bowls across the State, demonstrating a true commitment to excellence in Massachusetts' 10th District. Since 1978 when the MIAA first regulated athletic events in the Commonwealth, these tournaments have highlighted the dedication and discipline of our State's high school football teams, and the five teams from the 10th Congressional District, who won their division Super Bowls, are wonderful examples of the best of high school sports.

I am certain that the student-athletes on Nantucket's high school football team will take the valuable lesson of teamwork they have learned and translate it into many successes in the future. This is a tremendous achievement for the school, coaches and players, and I congratulate them on making everyone in their communities, including myself, proud.

I would like to take a moment to now recognize each of the hardworking athletes, their coach, and assistant coaches for their achievements both on and off the field:

From Nantucket High School (by alphabetical order):

Jake Adams, Oscar Andersen, Keegan Bartlett, Andrew Benson, Victor Boucher, Valentino Coleman, Matt Correia, Terrel Correia, Bryan Depass, Sam Earle, Hunter